

DNR *Program*

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Falls of the Ohio State Park
201 West Riverside Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129
812-280-9970

For immediate release: December 4, 2009

Contact: Connie Farmer, Volunteer Coordinator, 812-280-9970, ext. 404 or Alan Goldstein ext. 403

Become a *Naturalist at Heart* at the Falls of the Ohio

Do you think of yourself as a naturalist at heart? If so, consider joining the *Naturalist at Heart* volunteer program at the Falls of the Ohio State Park. This exciting program was created to combine education and volunteering. Interested applicants are interviewed to establish mutual goals. Volunteer interests are matched with the needs of the park and its visitors.

Now in its sixth year, new participants may attend the program orientation either January 6 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., or January 9 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Call the park to register. Those unable to attend on either date can schedule an individual orientation. Participants will be offered free classes relating to the natural and cultural history of the Falls of the Ohio. Lessons cover geology, biology, archaeology, history, interpretation, and more. To help volunteers meet their goals, we have two levels of certification as a *Naturalist at Heart*. The first level of certification is reached after 40 hours of lessons and 50 hours of volunteer time at the park.

Most of the classes are open to the public and typically last three hours. Classes are on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. or Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Level I classes are offered twice and level 2 classes are offered once. Speakers are park staff or invited experts.

2010 classes open to everyone include:

Heart Certification Level I (Introductory)

Geology of the Falls, Alan Goldstein: January 30 & February 3

Fossils at the Falls, Alan Goldstein: Feb. 20 & 24

Prehistory at the Falls, Bett Etenohan: Feb. 6 & 17

Life in the Ohio River, Jeremy Beavin: Feb. 27 & Mar. 10

Birds at the Falls, Kathy Dennis: Mar. 20 & 24

Spring Wildflowers, Connie Farmer: Apr. 7 & 10

History of the Falls, Jeannie Burke: April 21 & 24

Tree Identification, Connie Farmer: May 19 & 22

Heart Certification Level 2 (More in-depth)

Backyard Nature, Bill Adams: Jan. 27

Urban Mammals, Doug McCoy, Louisville Zoo: Mar. 3

Wildflowers of Southern Indiana, Richard Lyons: Mar. 6

Ohio River Fish, Dr. William Pearson, University of Louisville: Mar. 13

Ohio River History, Chuck Parrish, Corps of Engineers Historian (retired): Mar. 17

Shore & Wading Birds of the Ohio River Area, Brainard Palmer-Ball: Apr. 14

Understanding Evolution, Alan Goldstein: April 28

If you would like to participate in this educational opportunity at the Falls of the Ohio State Park call 812-280-9970 or e-mail park @ fallsoftheohio.org.